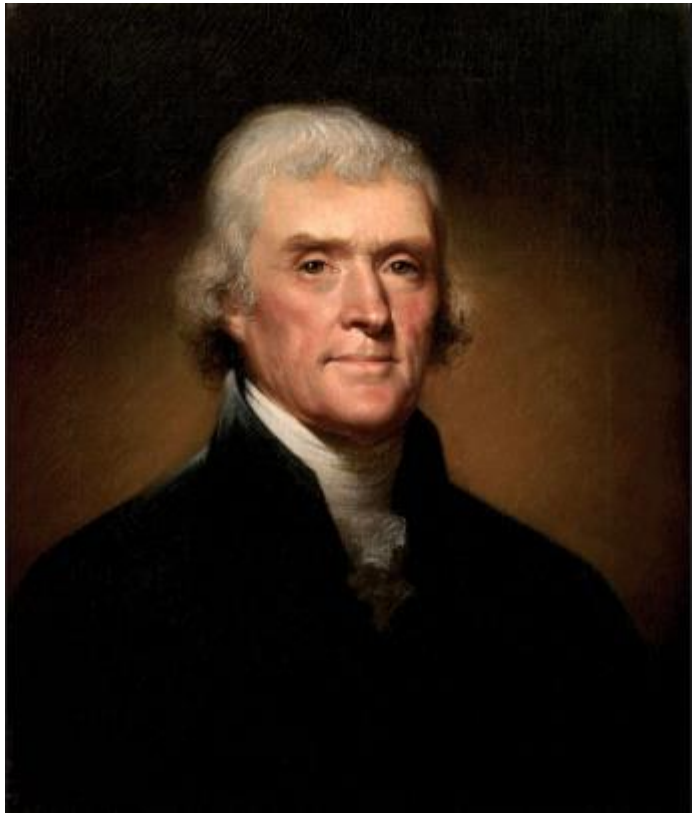


PBS Lesson Series

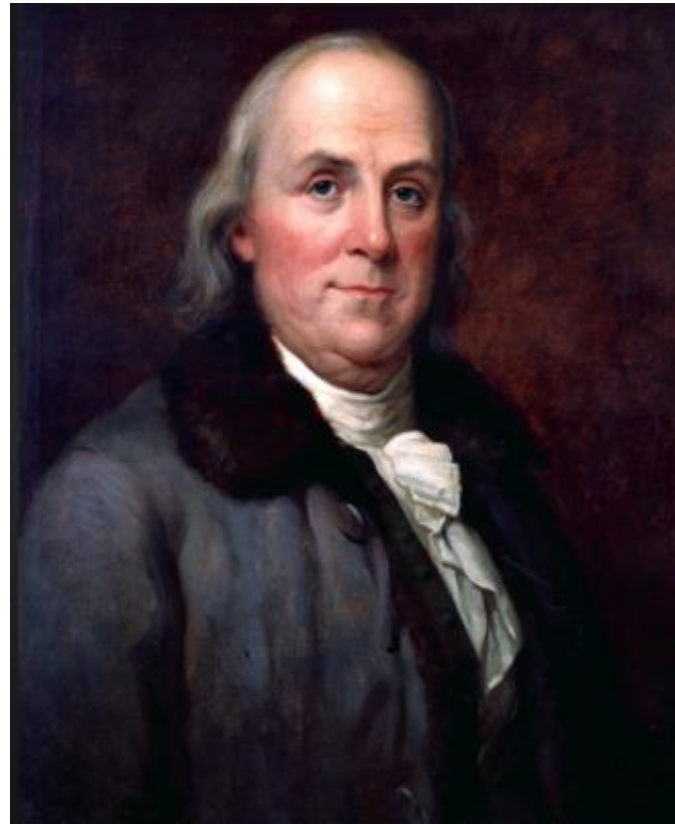
ELA, Grade 2, Lesson 17

Teacher Packet

Thomas
Jefferson



Benjamin
Franklin



John
Adams



The Declaration of Independence is a written document announcing America's freedom from Britain. Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams worked to make it perfect, so representatives from the colonies would approve it.

Morphology chart

Prefixes	Suffixes	Roots
Re- again		

disagree

disobey

disrespect

distrust

Not long before, the colonies had established a Continental Congress. The Continental Congress was made up of delegates from each of the thirteen colonies and served as the government.



Slide 6

Declaration of Independence, oil on canvas by John Trumbull, 1818; in the U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C. The members of the Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776.

For years, the colonies had been displeased with the way the British had forced them to follow laws they didn't approve. One of the most important issues to the colonies was something called "taxation without representation." The British government taxed many goods, such as tea, without asking the colonists for permission.

The British government made lots of other rules that the colonies had to follow, and the colonies couldn't do anything about it. In 1775, the Continental Congress sent a petition to the British King.



Slide 9

Declaration of Independence, oil on canvas by John Trumbull, 1818; in the U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C. The members of the Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776.

It listed the ways that the colonies thought Britain had treated them unfairly. The Continental Congress hoped that the King and the colonies could reach an agreement and that would make both sides happy. But the king ignored the petition.

The author says the colonies were displeased with the British. What reasons does he give to support this point?